

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A method and apparatus for fault management in a network. A network  
architecture is disclosed including at least one network switch, several network interface  
cards, several processors (host) and a network manager. Fault reporting and detection  
logic is implemented in each switch and in each network interface card. In addition,  
multiple fault reporting pathways are provided for each switch and each network  
10 interface card. As a result, utilizing message exchanges such as Fibre Channel exchange  
messages, the switch, the network interface cards and the processors (host) are able to  
autonomously generate and report faults to the network manager. The combined fault  
reporting enables the network manager to more accurately isolate faults. In addition,  
because of the autonomous nature of the fault reporting, faults may be detected and  
15 corrected prior to the initiation of a communication session.